Influences for the Brothers Grimm Fairy Tale Collection

The Meaning of the Tales and their Effect on Literature

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Senior Thesis
Marburg
The Fairy Tale Road

Bremen
Minden
Hameln
Bodenwerder
Bad Karlshafen
Göttingen
Kassel
Fritzlar
Marburg
Alsfeld
Schlüchtern
Hanau
Influences and Effect

• Biography
• Tales as a Product of Romantic Period
• Influences for the Collection
  – Political
  – Personal
  – Professional
• Impact
  – What does this do for Germany?
  – For Literature?
• Effect on the World
Once upon a time...

- Jacob Grimm 1785 -1863
- Wilhelm Grimm 1786 – 1859
- Marburg University 1802-1806
- Professors at Göttingen University 1829 – 1837
- Other works:
  - Deutsche Sagen (German Sagas)
  - Deutsches Wörterbuch (German Dictionary)
Kinder- und Hausmärchen

- 1st Edition published 1812 with extensive notes
- Kleine Ausgabe 1825 without notes
- Never earned the Grimms much money
The Romantic Period

- 1780 – 1850
- Opposed the Enlightenment
- Art, literature, music attempted to express human emotions
- Interested in mythical figures, nature, and fantasy
- Valued Volkskunst
Personal and Professional Influences

- Naturpoesie
- Request from Clemens Brentano
- Interest in Language
- Interest in Culture and the Origins
- Scholarly projects
Political Influences

• Napoleon’s Occupation 1806-1848
• Variety of German-speaking states
• Lack of unification allowed for occupation
Impact on Germany and Literature

- Gave Germans a sense of unity
- Taught children lessons
- A source for imagination
- Created a new Erzählform (Narration)
Worldwide Legacy
“Thou shalt not’ is soon forgotten, but ‘Once upon a time’ lasts forever.”
- Philip Pullman

…The End